

Financial Bungling in Super Bazar

925. SHRI RAMSAGAR : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Super Bazar is footing the salary bills and other expenses in respect of one of its ex-general manager or has foot them in the past;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the expenditure so incurred on the salary and other allowances;

(c) whether there is any proposal to enquire into the financial bungs going on and to recover the excess amount of house rent paid and the amount incurred on the STD calls bills on the residential telephone of the officers concerned; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) and (b) According to the information furnished by the Super Bazar, Delhi, they have paid the salary and other eligible expenses in respect of their Ex-Managing Director as per the terms of his deputation and as per Super Bazar Rules. The expenses incurred by the Super Bazar on their Ex-Managing Director for the items mentioned below were as under:—

(i) Salary (July '96 – 28.6.1997)	Rs. 2,02,392.00
(ii) Training Exp.	Rs. 93,800.00
(iii) Transfer Grants	Rs. 4,000.00
(iv) TA Advance	Rs. 1,000.00
(v) Packing Allowance	Rs. 1,500.00
(vi) Advance against salary (joining time)	Rs. 5,000.00

Apart from above, the Ex-Managing Director was also reimbursed the expenses of newspapers etc.

(c) The payment of House Rent and reimbursement of STD calls/telephone facility was done as per the entitlement to the post of Managing Director in Super Bazar, Delhi. Accordingly, there is no financial bungling in the payments made on account of salaries and other allowances to the Ex-Managing Director.

(d) In view of reply given at (c) above, does not arise.

Share of FPI

926. SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state the share of food processing industries out of total foodgrains, plantation and agricultural products in the country during the last three years, yearwise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY) : Food Processing Industries are both in the organised and unorganised sectors. Hence the share of food processing industries out of total food grains, plantation and agricultural products in the country are not available. However, the total production of food grains which include Rice, Wheat, Jowar, Bajra, Maize, Ragi, Pulses, Barley millets and coarse cereals etc. during the last three years are as under :

1994-95	191.50 Million Tonnes
1995-96	185.04 Million Tonnes
1996-97 (Estimated)	193.50 Million Tonnes

Out of the total production of food grains mentioned above, about 10% is retained by the farmers for purpose of seed. Rest of the production is processed by various food processing industries every year. About 2% of the total production of fruits and vegetables and 4% of the total production of Milk are processed in the organised sector.

Families Below Poverty Line

927. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the introduction of targeted Public Distribution System by the Union Government has proved a curse rather than a boon to different sections of the people in Karnataka as appeared in the 'Economic Times' dated July 2, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) whether such a position is not going to seriously affect and curtail the allocation of foodgrains to States thereby creating difficulties for large number of urban poor; and

(d) if so, the mechanism proposed to resolve the differences between the Centre and the States in the matter of estimates of persons below the poverty line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The 'Economic Times' in its edition of 2nd July, 97 has reported that Karnataka Government's assessment of families Below Poverty Line is much higher than the figures of the Central Government. It further reported that the monthly quota of foodgrains has been slashed by the Central Government from 1,20,000 MT to 35,000 MT, the open market prices of foodgrains have sharply risen as a result, and the Central Cooperative Wholesale stores as well as Agriculture Produce Marketing Societies will have to close following the reduction of 90% of foodgrains.

(c) No, Sir. The allocation of foodgrains to States under Targeted PDS is based on last ten years' average annual lifting by the States/UTs taking into account the requirement of the households below the poverty line (BPL).

(d) The number of BPL households have been worked out as per the methodology of the 'Expert Group' constituted by the Planning Commission under the Chairmanship of Late Prof. Lakdawala. According to Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, the Expert Group methodology gives "poverty estimates closest to ground reality" and as such they have been adopted by Government of India.

Non-Utilisation of Grants for Consumer Courts

928. SHRI SURESH R. JADHAV : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request has been received from the Maharashtra Government for use of grants sanctioned for 1995-96 and 1996-97 for strengthening the infrastructure of Consumer Courts during 1997-98 because the State Governments could not use these grants during the said period due to certain complicated procedures;

(b) if so, whether a decision has since been taken in the matter; and

(c) if not, the steps being taken by the Government to expedite the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) A request in this regard has been received from the Maharashtra Government.

(b) and (c) Central Government has already accorded permission to the Govt. of Maharashtra to utilise the grant sanctioned in 1995-97 for strengthening the infrastructure of Consumer Courts, during the year 1997-98.

FCI Godowns in A.P.

929. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in spite of the recommendations made by the FCI, the godowns at Dichipally in Nizamabad in Andhra Pradesh has not yet been constructed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is not even a single small depot owned by FCI in Nizamabad district and FCI has to depend on CWC/private parties for shortage of accommodation; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in construction of FCI godowns in Dichipally at an early date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) to (d) At present, Food Corporation of India is not having its own storage capacity at Dichipally which falls under Nizamabad district of Andhra Pradesh region. However, the Central Warehousing Corporation is having 95,760 MT capacity in the district. Of that, FCI is utilising 45,620 MT capacity. Apart from that, FCI has also taken on hire ARDC godowns which are privately owned with the capacity of 19,296 MT. The present hired capacity is considered to be sufficient and the Food Corporation of India does not propose to construct its own capacity because of low utilisation and resource constraints.

[Translation]

Amendment in Police Act

930. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up or propose to set up any committee or commission for giving suggestions to bring about improvement in the Police Act;